

PARKS, TRAIL CORRIDORS AND OTHER RECREATION AREAS

A diverse collection of sites and facilities owned, managed and maintained by public entities that are accessible to the public. These areas accommodate a variety of recreation uses including passive and active recreation, hunting, fishing and the like.

IMPORTANCE:

- These areas, especially trail corridors, are utilized as transportation routes
- These areas are used as settings for active and passive recreation activities
- Park areas serve to enhance the public health, safety and welfare
- Park areas support social interaction and develop social and cultural connectivity
- Parks can be developed to support active recreational uses or can be developed or maintained as natural areas
- Parks, trails and other outdoor activity areas provide opportunities for recreation close to our homes
- Parks, trails and other recreation areas help maintain a high quality of life
- These areas are important image builders for Lancaster County and provide aesthetic beauty




- Park areas are diverse and multifunctional
- Park areas can be developed and maintained as individual, unique parcels, but also designed and connected together within a comprehensive, unified network
- Parks, trails and other recreation areas provide opportunities for access to the County's natural landscape
- Parks, trails and other recreation areas provide accessible open space for County residents that is complimentary to every other resource imperative
- Parks enhance property values in the County
- Parks stimulate economic development in the County by creating a desirable place to live and work
- Recreation areas located in the urban areas of the County provide habitat for a diverse population of urban wildlife
- Recreation areas located in the urban areas of the County provide opportunities for observing urban wildlife
- County recreation areas provide habitat for migratory species
- County recreation areas often provide accessible fisheries

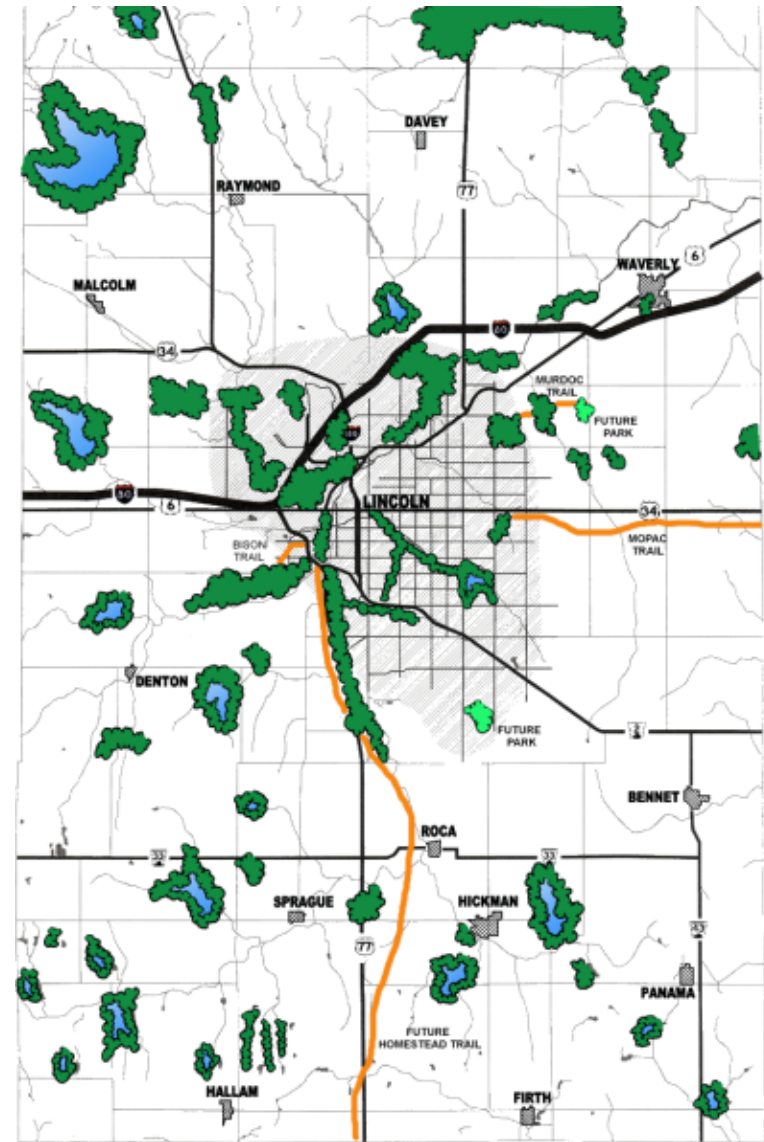


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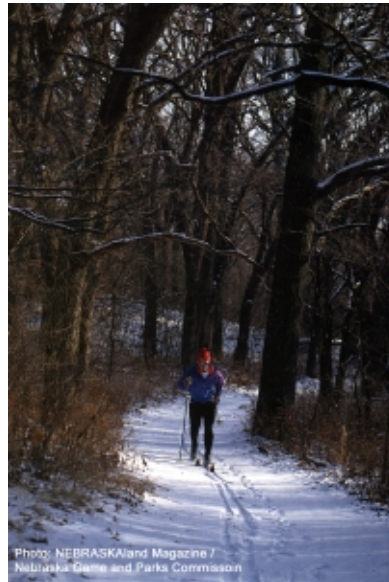
LEGEND

-  **EXISTING PARKS**
-  **FUTURE PARKS**
-  **TRAILS**



HUMAN IMPACT/THREAT:

- Some private landowners are concerned about the effect of nearby park and trail development on their land due to increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic
- A higher level of activity at a park site increases impacts such as soil compaction, damage to existing plant material or wildlife communities, etc. Management issues at park and recreation areas are intensified as activity increases
- Park and recreation areas typically increase adjacent land values, which in turn create additional issues associated with land ownership, “givings”, etc.
- Domestic pets such as dogs and cats can negatively impact urban and rural wildlife



PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

- The planning process for the location and design of parks, trail corridors and other recreation areas should occur prior to other development initiatives
- The need to integrate or consolidate County and City park planning processes should be analyzed and a recommendation should be developed
- Development that emphasizes clustering of activities and structures should be encouraged so that public open space can be integrated more easily into new urban growth areas
- Resources, including financial assets, must be developed and secured so that action on opportunities to acquire park land, trail corridors and other recreation areas can be acted on in a timely manner
- Resources must be allocated for the maintenance of the County's parks and recreation areas
- Buffers should be established around rural recreation areas that allow hunting
- Appropriate habitat restoration in rural recreation areas should be accomplished as required to sustain wildlife species